The stock of foodgains in the Central Pool as on 1.10.2002 was 514.10 lakh tonnes as against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181.00 lakh tonnes resulting 333.10 lakh tonnes of excess stock.

(b) to (d) Under the price support scheme, the Government is committed to procure all the foodgrains conforming to prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres. Procurement operations are carried out throughout the country for each Rabi/Kharif Marketing Season. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-2003 which has commenced on 1.10.2002, 83.83 lakh tonnes in terms of rice has already been procured.

State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been requested to create additional storage capacity to the extent of 89.77 lakh tonnes under the 7 year guarantee scheme in the major procuring States. This additional capacity is under creation since 2000-01.

(e) The total quantum of rice and wheat export, during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto October, 2002) is as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-2001	18.69	—
2001-2002	39.52	19.85
2002-2003 (upto Oct., 2002)	38.98	46.47

(Provisional)

Enforcement of quality regulations on unsafe foreign goods

924. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Education and Research Centre has urged the Central Government to enforce stringent quality regulations on sub-standard, unsafe foreign consumer products;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether several foreign companies are still dumping their sub-standard products in the Indian Markets; and

(d) if so, the concrete plans formulated to check entry of such foreign inferior quality products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) In the post WTO scenario, the domestic industry has to bear with competition from imports. However, to reduce the impact on domestic industry, Government has taken following measures:—

(i) The imports are closely monitored through the appropriate use of tariff and non-tariff mechanism;

(ii) Import duties on a number of items have been increased;

(iii) *Suo-moto* anti-dumping investigations have been initiated in respect of import of battery cells, battery operated toys and sports shoes from China.

(iv) Import of all packaged commodities are subject to compliance with the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977;

(v) Import of 135 products has been made subject to the compliance of the mandatory Indian Quality Standards as applicable to domestic goods. Manufacturers of such products are accordingly required to obtain Certification Marks Licence from Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(vi) The Government has also introduced a Bill for amending the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 so that Safeguard Action in the form of Quantitative Restrictions can be applied if the situation so warrants.